第91話
THIS WORLD IS RIGGED!?

...MATCH-FIXING...?

BUT,

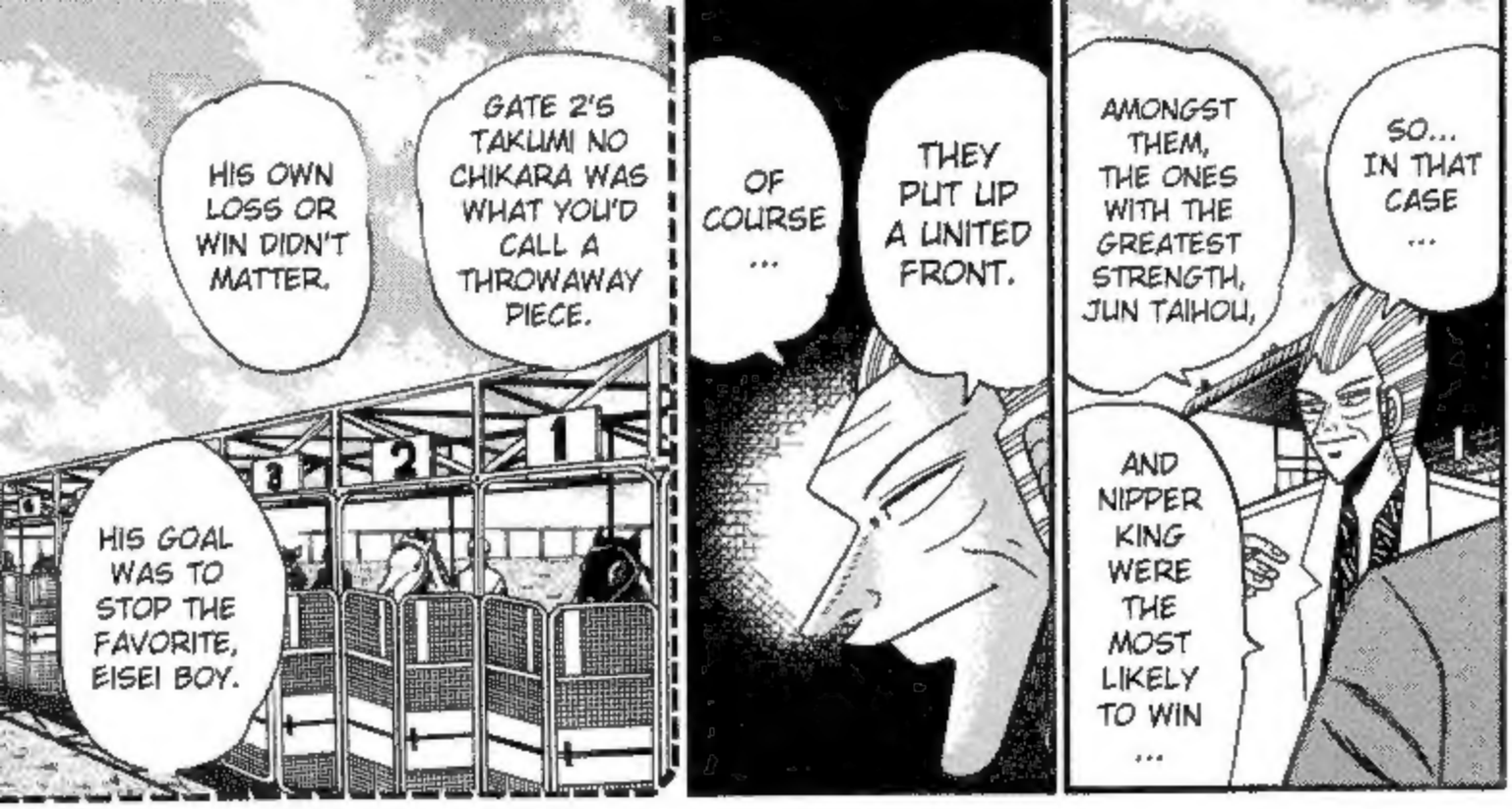
I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR.

FUFU ...
THE WINNING HORSE WAS ALREADY DECIDED ON...?
SO, THIS RACE,

THE 6TH GATE HELD NIPPER KING, AND THE 7TH GATE HELD JUN TAIHOU.
6
7
ALL THREE OF THESE HORSES HAVE THE SAME OWNER.

DURING THIS LAST RACE, THE ONE IN THE 2ND GATE WAS TAKUMI NO CHIKARA.
?.....
AFTER THAT,

YOU WOULD HAVE TO RIG THE POSITIONS OF THE HORSES.
IF YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE A CERTAIN HORSE WIN,


SO... IN THAT CASE ...
AMONGST THEM, THE ONES WITH THE GREATEST STRENGTH, JUN TAIHOU,
AND NIPPER KING WERE THE MOST LIKELY TO WIN ...
THEY PUT UP A UNITED FRONT.
OF COURSE ...
GATE 2'S TAKUMI NO CHIKARA WAS WHAT YOU'D CALL A THROWAWAY PIECE.
HIS OWN LOSS OR WIN DIDN'T MATTER.
HIS GOAL WAS TO STOP THE FAVORITE, EISEI BOY.

HE PROBABLY DUG HIS HEELS INTO THE HORSE'S STOMACH WHILE IN THE GATE.
TAKUMI NO CHIKARA SUDDENLY STARTED GETTING RESTLESS.
THIS AGITATION ...
...SPREAD TO EISEI BOY, WHO WAS NEXT TO HIM.
HE LOST HIS COOL, AND AS A RESULT,
HE WAS LATE ...

.....
TALKING ABOUT IT IN THAT TERRIBLE WAY, YOU ALMOST HAVE TO CALL IT MATCH-FIXING.
HOW-EVER ...
EVEN IF IT'S MATCH-FIXING TO THAT GUY,
I CAN'T BLAME THEM AT ALL.
THAT SORT OF THING IS ONLY NATURAL ...
JUST THINK ABOUT IT ...

THE WORLD'S OVERFLOWING WITH IT.
THAT LEVEL OF RIGGING IS COMMON PRACTICE ...

WELL... IF YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THE WORLD,

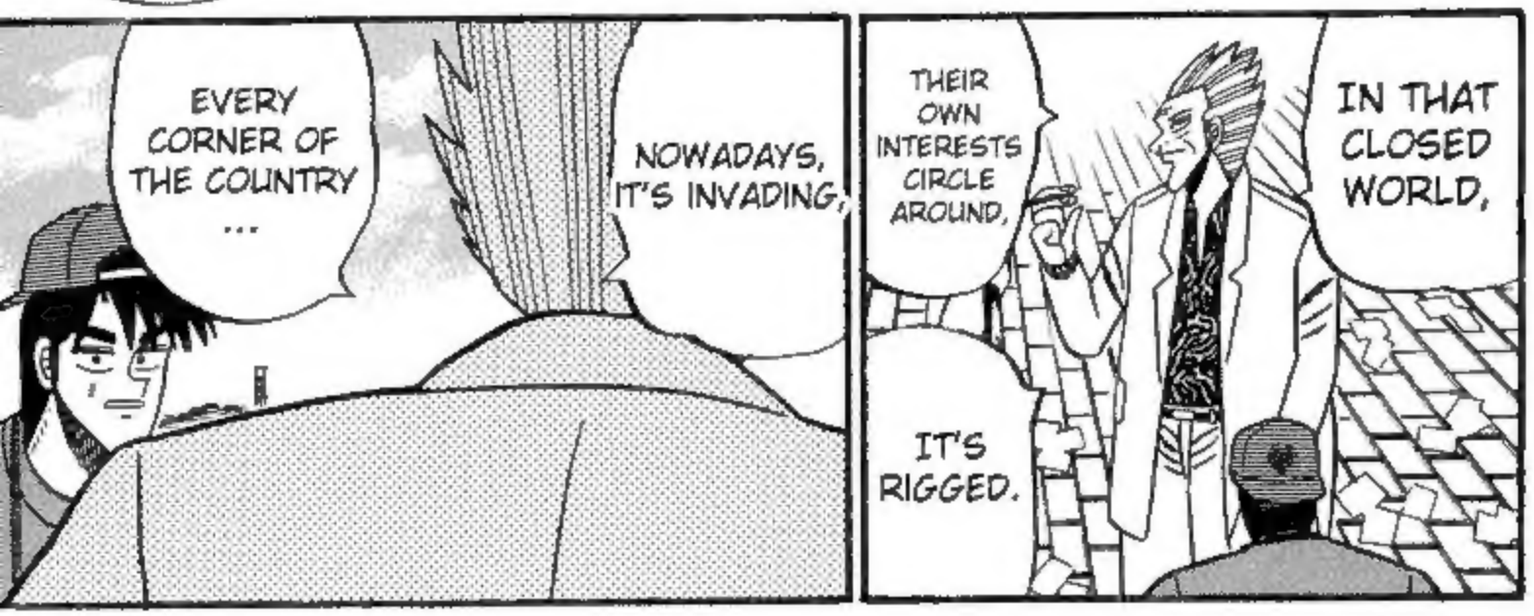
THERE ARE NO LAWS THAT STATE THAT THEY MUST BE SEPARATE.
IT'S SIMPLY A BAD PRACTICE THEY'VE BEEN REPEATING FOR A LONG TIME.
IT'S WHAT THEY CALL "AMAKUDARI".

THE ELECTED CHAIRMAN,
IS ALWAYS A TOP BUREAUCRAT IN THE MINISTRY OF FISHING AND AGRICULTURE.

THEY DECIDE ON THE PERMANENT VICE MINISTER.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE JSA.
.....
AS FOR THE TOP PERSONNEL,

IT'S GREAT FOR THEM ...
THEY PASS THEIR INTERESTS AROUND SOLELY WITHIN THEIR OWN GROUP.
LIKE THAT ...
THOSE GUYS ...
THEY WOULDN'T EVEN CONSIDER SOMEONE FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR.
ALTHOUGH THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER TALENTED PEOPLE.
THAT'S ENOUGH TO BECOME THE JSA PRESIDENT EVEN AS A CIVILIAN.


EVERY CORNER OF THE COUNTRY ...
NOWADAYS, IT'S INVADING,
THEIR OWN INTERESTS CIRCLE AROUND,
IT'S RIGGED.
IN THAT CLOSED WORLD,

DON'T YOU THINK...?
BECAUSE IT'S RIGGED ...
THEY LOSE THEIR MOTIVATION ...
THIS SOCIETY IS STIFLING.
FOR THE PENNILESS YOUNG PEOPLE ...

……

NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, MAN, IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!
CHAIRMEN OR WHATEVER …

WHAT'S THE DILLIO, BRO! WHY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING SO COMPLICATED?
I GOT NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT…!

NOT REALLY …
……

WHICH …
JUST TALK ABOUT THAT…!
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT IS WHICH HORSE IS GONNA WIN THE NEXT RACE …

IT'S TOTALLY UNRELATED…!
FUFU …

THIS… ONE.
……

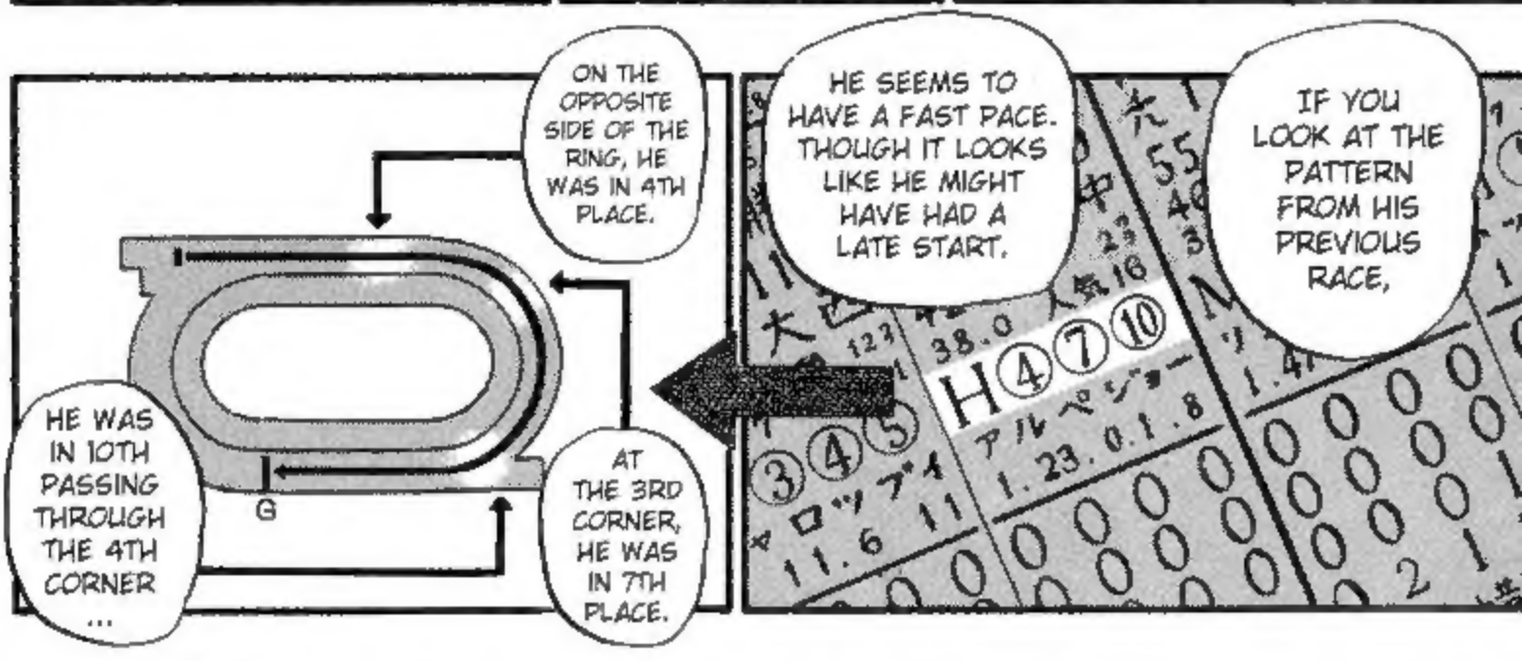
…DO YOU HAVE YOUR EYE ON…?
……

I'LL BET ON LEIDEN DURING THE 9TH RACE.
RATHER THAN WAITING FOR THE MAIN RACE,
I GOT ENOUGH MONEY.
LOOKING AT IT THAT WAY,
THE LAST RACE REALLY JACKED ME UP.
NUMBER 3, LEIDENFIELD.

NUMBER 9, FIRST SOUTA.
I'M BETTING ON THIS ONE.
.....
HMMM.
I'LL PLACE A BET ON LEIDEN...!

FUFU...
WHY DO YOU THINK HE WOULD AT 1800 METERS...!?
AS FOR HIS RUNNING STYLE...
JUST TAKE A LOOK AT THE PAPER...
HE BARELY EVER PLACES WELL IN 1200 OR 1400 METERS.
HE'S SUPER SLOW, Y'KNOW?
NO WAY...
YEAH...
FIRST SOUTA...?

HE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE A CHANCE TO DEVELOP.
THOUGH HE DID POORLY THE LAST TWO RACES,
EH...?
AT THIS DISTANCE, HE MIGHT JUST SHOW HIS STRENGTH.
THIS RACE IS MEDIUM LENGTH, AT 1800 METERS.
A HORSE THAT'S NOT SUITED TO RUNNING SHORT DISTANCES ...
IT'S PRETTY INTERESTING, THOUGH.


ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE RING, HE WAS IN 4TH PLACE.
HE SEEMS TO HAVE A FAST PACE. THOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE HE MIGHT HAVE HAD A LATE START.
IF YOU LOOK AT THE PATTERN FROM HIS PREVIOUS RACE,
HE WAS IN 10TH PASSING THROUGH THE 4TH CORNER ...
G
AT THE 3RD CORNER, HE WAS IN 7TH PLACE.

HIS ODDS HAVE GONE UP.
BECAUSE OF HIS MEDIOCRE PERFORMANCE TWO RACES AGO,
THE CHANCES AREN'T BAD ...
AS FOR THE OTHER HORSES... THEIR RIDERS WILL PROBABLY LET THEIR GUARD DOWN.
THIS TIME, THE HORSE IS PROBABLY UNMARKED.
FOR THAT MATTER,
THIS TIME, HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY RUN AT HIS OWN PACE ...
YOU CAN'T SAY THIS WAS A RACE THAT MADE GOOD USE OF HIS RUNNING STYLE.
HIS POOR PERFORMANCE IN THE LAST RACE DOESN'T SHOW THE HORSE'S TRUE POWER.

STICKING WITH WHOEVER'S LUCKY IS A CARDINAL RULE OF GAMBLING ...
.....
I'VE BEEN PRETTY LUCKY.
WELL... IT SEEMS THAT TODAY,
FUFU ...
.....
.....
KUKUKU ...
EH...?
YOU'RE PRETTY CONFIDENT, HUH...!
...HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SUREFIRE WAY TO WIN AT HORSE RACING...!
BUT I CAN SAY THAT SELF-CONFIDENCE ...
I CAN'T CLAIM TO BE 100% CONFIDENT, NOR CAN I MAKE ANY GUARANTEES.
WHETHER YOU BUY THAT TICKET OR NOT IS UP TO YOU.
I HAVE NO PROOF BEHIND IT; IT'S JUST MY READING.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
ALL I SAID WAS THAT IT WAS AN INTERESTING BET.

SEE YA ...
WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT MORE LATER.
WELL ...
FUFU ...
EH...?
THEN EVERYONE WOULD BE DOING IT ...
IF THAT REALLY EXISTED,
WHAT A LOAD OF BULL...!
DUMB-ASS...!
.....
THE SUREFIRE WAY TO WIN AT HORSE RACING...?
ON 1800 METERS OF TURF.
THUS APPROACHED THE 9TH RACE.
.....

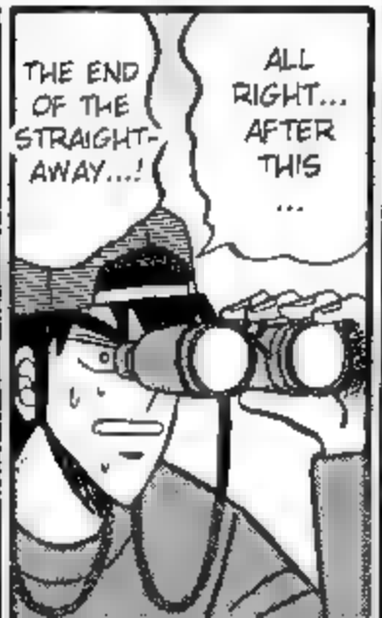
……
ドドォー!!!
FIRST SOUTA RUNS AHEAD...!
UP TO THIS POINT, IT'S GOING EXACTLY LIKE HE SAID ...
WHAT THE HEEEELL~?
WHAT'S WITH THIS DIFFER-ENCE...?
UU ...
HE'S AHEAD BY 5 HORSE LENGTHS
6 HORSE-LENGTHS
HE RUNS.!
IT'S HARD TO SAY IF IT'S DECIDED.
FUFU ...
SHIT ...
……
HE MIGHT JUST MAKE IT ...
IF HE WINS, YOU'LL GET 50 TIMES THE PAYOUT.
FIRST SOUTA.
THAT SLOW PACE HORSE HAS A GOOD FLOW GOING.
……

東京
9 レース
'95年□回□日
十月9日
単勝式
WIN
3 ライデンフィールド
LEIDENFIELD
JRA
★20,000円
★2000枚

HERE HE COMES...!

……
LEIDEN-FIELD...?

……
I SEE ...


ALL RIGHT... AFTER THIS ...
THE END OF THE STRAIGHT-AWAY...!

ドドドドオオーッ

LIKE I'D MAKE A CHOICE BASED ON YOUR GUESSES!
NO SHIT...!
YOU DON'T BET BASED ON WHAT OTHERS SAY ...
YOU DIDN'T BUY IT... HUH.
LEDENFIELD
FIRST SOLTA
JRA
YOU'RE PRETTY SPIRITED ...
FUFU ...
WHO THE HELL WOULD BUY THAT...!
YOU'RE A NAIVE BOY ...
AT THIS POINT ...
BUT IT'S ONLY SPIRIT ...
NOT YET ...
DON'T YOU SEE IT'S NOT OVER YET...!?
YOUR FEELINGS ARE JUST BOILING OVER AREN'T THEY...?
STOP YAPPING DURING THE RACE...!
SHUT UP...!

ドドドドドドォォォ
FUFU...
HE'S COMING...!
HE'S COMING...!
WHOA...!
ドドドドォーッ
HE'S CLOSING IN...!
ドドドドッ
LEIDEN...
HE'S CLOSING THE GAP...!
ドォォッ...
HE'S COMING..!
H...HEY, LOOK...!

AH
...
IT...
IT WAS
LEIDEN,
RIGHT...?
EH...?
TAKE
THAT, YOU
ASSHOLE...!
BOOYAH...!
YEAH
...
HE
WAS ABOUT
A HALF A
HORSE-LENGTH
IN FRONT,
RIGHT
WOO
HOO....!

POPS
...
WHADDYA THINK ABOUT THAT...!
HE WAS HERE JUST A SECOND AGO
WHERE'D HE GO?
HUH...?
ざわ...
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS ...
I SEE ...
FUFU ...
ざわ
ざわ..
ざわ...

FUFU ...
HE'S NOWHERE TO BE SEEN ...
AND NOW ...
HE WAS JUST FRONTIN'.
ALL OF THAT RAMBLING ...
東京
'85年0回0日
レース
単勝式
WIN
JSA 東京
ファーストソウタ
FIRST SOUTA
EH...?

ざわっ

YOU'RE PRETTY SPIRITED ...
AT THAT MOMENT ...
HE SWITCHED THEM...!
GUH ...

YOU'RE A NAIVE BOY ...
HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE WAY TO ALWAYS WIN AT HORSE RACING...!
BUT I CAN SAY THAT SELF-CONFIDENCE,
IT'S ONLY SPIRIT... AT THIS POINT.
BUT ...

NAIVE
...
NAIVE
BOY
...
NAIVE.
AUGH...!
YOUR FEELINGS ARE JUST BOILING OVER, AREN'T THEY...?
WHERE...?
SHIT...!
WHERE IS HE...? THAT BASTARD!
UU
...

銀と金◆第91話◆完

LONG TIME NO SEE. WE'RE TRYING OK.

NOTES: AMAKUDARI ("DESCENT FROM HEAVEN")
IS THE INSTITUTIONALIZED PRACTICE WHERE JAPANESE
SENIOR BUREAUCRATS RETIRE TO HIGH-PROFILE
POSITIONS IN THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS.
THE PRACTICE WAS INCREASINGLY VIEWED AS CORRUPT
AND A DRAG ON UNFASTENING THE TIES
BETWEEN PRIVATE SECTOR AND STATE WHICH PREVENT
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REFORMS. (FROM WIKI)

TRANSLATIONS/CLEANING: TEABUN
CLEANING/TYPESETTING/PROOFING: XA